

Atty. Dkt. No. 100204097-1

REMARKS

This Reply is in response to the Non-Final Office Action mailed on April 7, 2006. Reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the following.

I. Claim Objections.

Paragraph 3 of the Office Action objected to Claims 8 and 9 because of informalities. Applicants are amending claim 8 as suggested in the Office Action. As such, Applicants submit that the objections to claims 8 and 9 are overcome and request withdrawal of these objections.

II. Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph.

Paragraph 4 of the Office Action rejected claims 25-27 under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph. Applicants are canceling claims 25-27, thus rendering moot the rejections thereof. Withdrawal of these rejections is requested.

III. Rejection of Claims 11-15, 23, and 24 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Based Upon Japanese Publication No. 5-77507.

Paragraph 5 of the Office Action rejected claims 11-15, 23, and 24 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Based Upon Japanese Publication No. 5-77507.

Applicants are amending claim 11 to recite "a processing position wherein a top surface of the input tray is horizontal" and submit that in FIG. 2 of the Japanese '507, a top surface of the tray 8 is not horizontal. As such, Applicants submit that Japanese '507 does not anticipate amended claim 11. Withdrawal of this rejection is requested. Claims 12-15 depend upon claim 11 and are allowable for at least the same reasons claim 11 is allowable. Withdrawal of these rejections is also requested.

Claims 23 and 24 are cancelled, thus rendering moot the rejections thereof. Withdrawal of these rejections is requested.

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IV. Conclusion.

After amending the claims as set forth above, Claims 1-5, 7-15 and 23-27 are now pending in this application.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 08-2025. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 08-2025. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 20 June 2006
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